Appointment of a Committee regarding Foreign Chartered Fishing Boats

2838. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Experts' Committee has been appointed to review the present policy of permitting foreign chartered fishing boats;

(b) if so, who are the members of experts Committee; and

(c) whether it is a fact that most of the members of the said committee are retired officials presently employed as agents of Foreign Shipyard and Indian Business Firms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Repayment of Loan by large fishing Companies

2839. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large fishing companies have not repaid their loans taken from Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that these defaulting companies in large fishing industry have sought for more imports of foreign fishing boats; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (c) Some companies who had taken loans from erstwhile Shipping Development Fund Committee (SDFC) have not paid the loan/interest instalments on due dates. A few of them have sought permits for acquisition of more fishing vessels. As on 31-10-87 an amount of Rs. 2,74,49,695.99 was overdue from the defaulting companies. No further financial assistance is proposed to be released to the defaulting companies for acquisition of new fishing vessels.

Rise in prices of essential commodities

2840. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN:

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there had been a rise in prices of essential commodities in the recent past;

(b) what has been the trend of the prices during the past two and half years of the Seventh Five Year Plan period; and

(c) what were the prices of essential commodities during the Sixth Five Year Plan as compared to the existing prices during September, 1987?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) During the past three months ending October, 1987, Wholesale Price Indices of some commodities have increased some commodities have declined and some have remained steady.

(b) and (c) The information is furnished in a statement enclosed.

Statement

Wholesale Price Indices of selected commodities in March, 1980, March, 1985 and September, 1987

Commodity	Wholesale Price Index		
	March 1980	March 1985	September 1987
Rice	193 5	267·4	335·1
Wheat	167·1	212·6	254·4
Jowar	168·7	230 6	273·2
Bajra	196 5	221·8	318·8
Gram	242 8	521·1	492·7
Arhar	229·3	283·4	586 7
Moong	313·4	493 1	436·2
Masur	231·7	354 6	546 6
Urad	223·8	402 4	419 9
Potatoes	127·3	88 2	298·5
Onions	218·4	282·5	975·2
Milk	176 0	265 9	323·8
Fish	279 7	490 8	481 0
Meat	311·0	469·5	593·4
Chillies	101·2	267 0	224 0
Tea	248·2	461·2	431·4
Coke	278·7	575 2	606 3
Kerosene	272 8	363·7	410·4
Atta	167·2	216 2	261·9
Sugar	218 2	245 6	310 7
Gur	320·6	361·7	488·2
Vanaspati	206·2	280·2	437 4
Groundnut oil	205 2	311 0	515 7
Mustard oil	226 9	240 5	485·4
Coconut oil	191·3	393·5	491·8
Gingelly oil	231·0	285 9	451·0
Salt	251·9	238·9	240·4
Cotton Cloth Mills	201·7	263 9	279 2
Soap	218.5	328·7	471·6
Matches	134·9	129·0	129·0